

Relative Clauses: Overview

Two sentences can be combined into one by using a **relative clause** to modify the *head noun*. The head noun can be the subject or the object of the sentence. To form a **relative clause**, change the noun or pronoun that refers to the head noun into a relative pronoun. Relative pronouns are *who*, *whom*, *that* and *which*. *Who* and *whom* are used for people. *Which* is used for non-humans. *That* can be used for either. *Whose + noun* is used when the relative clause contains a possessive.

head noun as object

pronoun that refers to head noun

*I read **the book**. Our teacher asked us to read **it**.*

*I read the book **that** our teacher asked us to read.*

head noun as subject

pronoun that refers to head noun

***The teachers** were helpful. You introduced me to **them**.*

*The teachers **that** you introduced me to were helpful.*

possessive

*I met the author. I read **his book**.*

*I met the author **whose book** I read.*

Be careful not to include the replaced noun or pronoun in the new sentence.

NOT: *I read the book that our teacher asked us to read **it**.*

Combine the following sentences using RELATIVE CLAUSES.

1. I have a brother. He is a lawyer.

2. I talked to the neighbour. His dog barks all night long.

3. We went to the restaurant. Our friend works at the restaurant.

4. He wants to meet the woman. I told him about the woman.

5. The students didn't finish the homework. The teacher assigned the homework.
